

# EXHIBIT R



TECH

# White House says social media networks should be held accountable for spreading misinformation

PUBLISHED TUE, JUL 20 2021•8:51 AM EDT    UPDATED TUE, JUL 20 2021•12:06 PM EDT



Jessica Bursztynsky  
@JBURSZ

WATCH LIVE

## KEY POINTS

Social media giants should be held accountable for publishing misinformation, the White House's communications director said Tuesday.

The comments are the latest from the Biden administration in a tiff over whether or not social media companies, specifically Facebook, are harming users by showing Covid-19 misinformation.

When asked by MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski whether these companies should be held liable for publishing false information that causes people harm, Kate Bedingfield said the administration is reviewing policies.



WATCH LIVE

Social media giants should be held accountable for publishing misinformation, the White House's communications director said Tuesday.

The comments are the latest from the Biden administration in a tiff over whether or not social media companies, specifically [Facebook](#), are harming users by showing [Covid-19](#) vaccine misinformation.

When asked by MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski whether these companies should be held liable for publishing false information that causes people harm, Kate Bedingfield said the administration is reviewing policies. That could include amending the Communications Decency Act, or Section 230 of the act.

"We're reviewing that, and certainly they should be held accountable," Bedingfield said. "And I think you've heard the president speak very aggressively about this. He understands this is an important piece of the ecosystem."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki previously [said](#) the Biden administration had started "flagging problematic posts for Facebook that spread disinformation," and that the government had proposed changes to major social media platforms.

Tuesday's comments follow a fight between the White House and Facebook, after President [Joe Biden](#) last week said that giants like Facebook were "killing people" by allowing disinformation regarding Covid vaccines.

"I mean they really, look, the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated, and that's — they're killing people," Biden said Friday.

Facebook responded by saying the company "will not be distracted by accusations which aren't supported by the facts."

Biden later clarified that it wasn't Facebook that was killing people, but the users who were posting the falsehoods. However, he said he hoped Facebook would do more to fight "the outrageous misinformation" about coronavirus vaccines being spread on its platform.



MARKETS



CNBC TV



WATCHLIST

MENU



WATCH LIVE

that are sharing misinformation about the virus that's getting shared on these platforms, Bedingfield said.

The White House did not immediately respond to CNBC's request for additional comment on Bedingfield's remarks.

-- CNBC's [Kevin Breuninger](#) contributed reporting.

[Subscribe to CNBC on YouTube.](#)



VIDEO 02:23

We've seen some weakness in Tech, says Wilmington Trust's Meghan Shue

## Closing Bell: Overtime

WATCH IN THE APP

UP NEXT | **Fast Money** 05:00 pm ET



MARKETS



CNBC TV

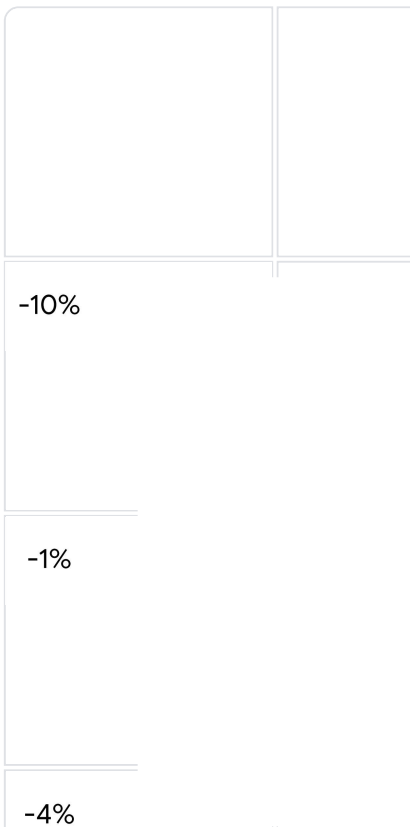


WATCHLIST

MENU



WATCH LIVE



## TRENDING NOW

China's CCP warns Elon Musk against sharing Wuhan lab leak report

**1** **nv closes more than 200 points lower Tuesday, major averages end February with losses**

**2** **year-old pays \$0 to live in a 'luxury tiny home' she built for \$35,000 in her backyard—look inside**



Subscribe to CNBC PRO

CNBC Councils

CNBC on Peacock

Supply Chain Values

Closed Captioning

Licensing & Reprints

Select Personal Finance

Join the CNBC Panel

Select Shopping

Digital Products



WATCH LIVE

Ad Choices

Podcasts

Help

Site Map

Careers

Contact



## News Tips

Got a confidential news tip? We want to hear from you.

GET IN TOUCH

## Advertise With Us

PLEASE CONTACT US



## CNBC Newsletters

Sign up for free newsletters and get more CNBC delivered to your inbox

SIGN UP NOW

Get this delivered to your inbox, and more info about our products and services.

Privacy Policy

Do Not Sell My Personal Information

CA Notice

Terms of Service

© 2023 CNBC LLC. All Rights Reserved. A Division of NBCUniversal

Data is a real-time snapshot \*Data is delayed at least 15 minutes. Global Business and Financial News, Stock Quotes, and Market Data and Analysis.

## Market Data Terms of Use and Disclaimers

Data also provided by



MARKETS



CNBC TV



WATCHLIST

MENU